

HERSETH SANDLIN HOSTS FARM BILL HEARING

12 Ag Committee Members in Sioux Falls to Hear Directly from South Dakotans

Sioux Falls, SD (May 18, 2010)-Today, Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin was joined by a bipartisan group of 11 members of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee for a field hearing in Sioux Falls designed to gather input directly from South Dakotans on the 2012 Farm Bill. The hearing was held at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, and included testimony from a range of South Dakotans representing diverse agricultural and rural interests, including grain production, biofuels and forestry products.

“Congress passes a new Farm Bill every five years, and it’s critical that factors affecting South Dakota are heard and understood as this legislation is drafted,” Rep. Herseth Sandlin said. “That’s why I’m pleased that the Agriculture Committee had an opportunity to hear about a diverse range of issues in South Dakota affected by the Farm Bill at today’s hearing. I encourage South Dakotans to continue providing input and look forward to working with my colleagues on the Committee, and the House as a whole, to draft a Farm Bill that does right by our state’s farmers, ranchers and rural communities.”

Rep. Herseth Sandlin encourages South Dakotans to provide Farm Bill feedback by visiting the Farm Bill section of her website by clicking [here](#) or calling her office toll-free at (866) 371-8747. In addition, The Committee is accepting feedback from the public about the Farm Bill on its website: <http://agriculture.house.gov> - all comments received via the web form before June 14 will be included in the Committee's Farm Bill Field Hearing record.

In addition to Agriculture Committee Chairman Colin Peterson and Rep. Herseth Sandlin, attending the hearing were: Congressman Timothy Walz of Minnesota; Congresswoman Betsy Markey of Colorado; Congressman Larry Kissell of North Carolina; Congressman Travis Childers of Mississippi; Congressman Bob Goodlatte of Virginia who serves as the Ranking Member of the Agriculture Committee’s Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Energy and Research; Congressman Mike Rogers of Alabama; Congressman Jeff Fortenberry of Nebraska who serves as the Ranking Member of the Agriculture Committee’s Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition, and Forestry; Congressman K. Michael Conaway of Texas who serves as the Ranking Member of the Agriculture Committee’s Subcommittee on Rural Development, Biotechnology, Specialty Crops and Foreign Agriculture; Congressman Adrian Smith of Nebraska; and Congressman Glenn Thompson of Pennsylvania.

Witnesses at today’s hearing included:

Panel I

Mr. Gary Duffy, corn, soybean, wheat, alfalfa, hog and beef producer, Oldham, South Dakota-President of the South Dakota Corn Growers Association.

Mr. Rod Gangwish, irrigated corn, soybean producer, Shelton, Nebraska

Mr. Doug Sombke, corn, wheat, soybean and beef producer, Conde, South Dakota-President of South Dakota Farmers Union.

Mr. Steve Masat, wheat, corn, soybean, hay, and livestock producer, Redfield, South Dakota-President of South Dakota Wheat Inc.

Mr. Kevin Scott, soybean, corn and hog producer, Valley Springs, South Dakota-Chairman of the South Dakota Soybean Association

Mr. Matthew Wolle, corn, soybean, and livestock producer, Madelia, Minnesota-Utilized Beginning Farmer and Rancher Program in 2008 Farm Bill

Mr. Scott VanderWal, corn, soybean, small grain, and beef producer, Volga, South Dakota-President of the South Dakota Farm Bureau Federation

Panel II

Mr. David Hallberg, biofuels representative, Omaha, Nebraska-CEO of PRIME BioSolutions, LLC

Dr. Scott Weishaar, biofuels representative, Sioux Falls, South Dakota-Vice President for Commercial Development of POET

Mr. Jim Nieman, forest product producer, Hulett, Wyoming-Vice President and CEO of Neiman Enterprises, Inc.

Dr. Kevin Kephart, Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School, South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota

The written statements of witnesses testifying at today's hearing can be found by visiting the Committee on Agriculture's website by clicking [here](#) or going to <http://agriculture.house.gov/hearings/statements.html>.